

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Monday February 12th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

Saturday February 17th
Cleaning & Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday February 19th
NO SCHOOL
President's Day

February 28 - March 9th
Parents Brunches
9:30am-10:30am

Saturday, March 3rd
VIP Day
10:00am

Monday March 12th
Annual Membership Meeting &
Board Meeting
7:30pm

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to melissasahern@gmail.com by February 20th for March's issue.



I hope everyone is keeping warm and finding ways to stay active and entertained with so much inside time! I know we are all thankful for the recent warm days! If you are looking for something different and fun to do in February, be sure to stop by the PNS art show at Kings Park Library. Our teachers have chosen some beautiful artwork! The children are so proud to see their artwork on display. This year's art show will run throughout the month of February. The art is displayed in the children's section of the library. It's a great family outing for a cold day!

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is in full swing. A BIG thanks to Kristie McCauley and all the wonderful volunteers, we had a very successful Open House. A thank you to the teachers as well. I know many parents enjoyed the opportunity to see our students playing and learning. Though the Open House is over, enrollment for new families will continue throughout the spring. The number one way new families hear about PNS is through word of mouth. Please spread the word about our school!

There are some important dates coming up this month. We have another maintenance day on Saturday, February 17th. There is only one more after this one so check with Stephanie Jensen if you are not sure you have fulfilled your member responsibility. The slate for next year's board will be presented at this month's board meeting on Monday, February 12th and PNS will be closed for the President's Day holiday on February 19th.

Finally, looking ahead to March, on Saturday, March 3rd, PNS will hold its annual VIP Day. Maybe Dad, Grandma, Grandpa or a favorite aunt, uncle, or neighbor would like to visit the preschool with your child? VIP Day is the perfect time for a family member or special friend who normally doesn't get to see your child at school to visit. Also, please make sure to put Monday, March 12th on your calendar. That is the night of our annual membership meeting, attendance is required for all families. We will vote on the executive board for the next year. The vote takes just a few minutes and the monthly board meeting follows, you are welcome to earn a volunteer hour by staying for the meeting.

Thank you all for making PNS a wonderful place for our kids to fall in love with school! Please feel free to let me know if I can be of any assistance throughout the rest of the school year.

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

Shhh... it's the first full week of February, and it's "Night" in the Twos and CDO classes! This week we'll read about owls and other nocturnal animals, and add an Owl pose to our growing repertoire of animal-based yoga poses that we can use to tell movement stories together. We'll also make art inspired by the night sky, and sing and pretend about bedtime routines and sleeping.

Then it's on to Valentine's Day, a school-wide theme. The music, art, books, and even the playdough will remind us of valentine colors, shapes, and themes. Another interesting thing about valentines is how they travel from one person to another, so we'll also learn about the post office. The Big Room will become a postal center, with mailboxes, mail bags, and lots of pretend mail to deliver. In the Valentine's Day

tradition, each student will have a chance to decorate a personal mail bag and to deliver valentines to friends' mail bags, too!

The final theme in February deserves two weeks of attention, because it's a favorite in the Twos and CDO classes: The Farm. My young friends *love* to talk and sing about cows, horses, and sheep! We'll play with toy barns and animals, read about farm animals and tractors, learn some familiar farm songs and nursery rhymes, and use animal puppets and costumes for pretend play.

I'm looking forward to this fun month of preschool with your little valentines!

Ms. Auten



Despite our missed days due to weather and holidays, we've been playing and working hard in the 3s class. We've transitioned right back into the routine with familiar friends as well as some new faces. February brings feelings and friendship and then we're on to one of the most popular preschool themes, Transportation! We'll be tackling a total of three weeks of transportation as we explore air, land and sea.

First up we're going to be talking about **Feelings**. We address these emotional words every day at school and I am sure you are dealing with them everyday at home as well! This week we'll be focused on looking at our faces as we show different feelings, "reading" other people's faces and practicing matching feeling words with expressions. We will discuss how our bodies feel with different emotions and practice some calm breathing and counting techniques to use with our strong emotions. Bartholomew will be spending some time with us as we role play asking for turns and telling friends to "stop please". We'll be creating a bulletin board of our "Many Colored Days" and attempting to paint how different music selections make us feel. Some of my favorite books will be read this week as we see how some characters in books deal with their feelings as well. Remember, all feelings are allowed and ok. We feel a range of emotions all day long and an important step in growing our emotional development is to recognize our feelings and be able to verbalize them.

We'll continue with Feelings into the week of February 12th as we prepare to celebrate **Friendship** as well as Valentine's Day at PNS. We'll decorate some mail bags for valentine deliveries at table work time, create Love Bug pattern art and dance and march with heart shapes. Circle Time will have us doing some activities as a team as well as with partners, including some sequencing and matching activities. The Big Room will have a Post Office

theme for creative play.

The week of February 19th we start talking about Transportation, specifically **Transportation in the Air**. This will include airplanes, hot air balloons, helicopters, and even rocket ships. We'll blast off into space on a "Rocketship Run," we'll make things move by blowing on them and we'll even see a balloon rocket travel. We'll use our developing scissor skills to cut out an airplane to decorate and then throw at targets for tablework. Creating rocketships out of shapes, creating sky collages and blowing paint will all be part of our process art this week.

Transportation on Land is the following week as we talk cars, buses, skates, scooter, bikes, and of course, trains. We'll be washing cars covered in shaving cream and using cars to paint on paper. We'll move our bodies in lots of different ways to travel around the room and we'll even attempt to follow the directional signs to different places in the Big Room, just like cars driving on the road. We'll attempt to move as a class train using connected hula hoops and hopefully we'll even get to push some scooters around the room as well. At table work, we'll be doing some counting and sequencing as we create a vehicle out of shapes.

I so enjoy my days with all my friends in the 3s class. They have come so far in terms of social play, using their words to express themselves and in remembering the class routine and rules. Our Morning Meetings are full of activities and they have lengthened the amount of time they can participate in group activities. While this age has its challenges as the children experience such rapid growth and change in all areas of development, this is also such a fun age of discovery and curiosity and expression (both verbal and emotional!) Thank you for sharing these days with us!

Ms. Ryan

Well, January certainly made its presence known this year...COLD, warm, windy, COLD, rainy, COLD, etc. We missed a couple days of school due to "snowy conditions"...but no real snow. It was a total waste of winter cold weather! But, oh well...on to February. (But I will miss all those dinosaurs...and hearing the kids say Paleontology!) But now here's a month with promise - and two good things going for it...it's short and has great themes! ☺

February brings us lots of new adventures. First comes a very exciting week...and it's all about science! I have learned that this group adores experiments and learning "why" things happen. So we will have fun 'doing' scientific stuff. You know....messy, gooey science fun. Who knows what will happen in class each day? You will have to ask your child that week to find out.

Next we'll celebrate a week filled with Valentine activities...special headbands, heart decorations, and beaded patterns. We will exchange Valentine cards on Wednesday, February 14th. On that day, I would like each child to bring a valentine for every member of the class. And may I ask a big favor of each of you? Please "address" each envelope with both the child's name and colored symbol. That way your child will be able to "mail" the valentines to his/her friends...all by themselves. (You know me and my hope of independence for all!) Kids love this activity and it makes Valentine's Day very special. (I will send home a list of symbols soon.) Would anyone like to send in a special Valentine snack for the class to share? It doesn't have to be elaborate...we will think it's special no matter what it is! ☺ And Thursday of that week will be spent exploring our feelings...why do we have them and what can we do with them?

The week of February 19th will find us discussing the workers who help us in our neighborhood. Community helpers are always a fun topic...I get to find out who my little friends imagine they will be "when they grow up." I wonder how many doctors, police officers, vets, or bus drivers there will be in this class.

Dr. Seuss will be our honorary guest during the week of 2/26. We will honor his memory by exploring several of his books...including my favorite, Green Eggs and Ham. Of course, we'll do some cooking on that day! I also have a couple of other creative projects to go along with other Dr. Seuss books...so stand by! We will be working on our rhyming skills throughout the week and we'll write our own class Rhyme Time book.

The Monday 4s gang will be working with the letters E(2/5), V&W(2/12), and I(2/26). You should hear this group working together to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit! Mondays are definitely fun days!

The class really has enjoyed the new check-in procedures. They always give the 'Question of the Day' great thought...and then happily go check out what morning work awaits them at the Window Table.

Are you ready for February - it's going to be a LOVE-ly month! And please remember - no school on February 19th (Presidents' Day).

Jane



We've been busy in the Fours Class and are looking forward to an early Spring!

Our first full week of February brings our **Healthy Choices** theme. We'll talk body parts (especially the ones on the inside of our body that we can't see), healthy foods, germs and exercise. We'll create a fun bulletin board all about our Bodies. Science (and shaving cream) will help us see the spread of "germs" and the gym will see lots of active games (if we can't get outside). Yoga and dancing will warm us up in the morning and our brains will help us write in our journals about a healthy choice we will resolve to make this month. The Letter of the Week is W for "washing" and we'll review B for germ "busting."

The week of February 12, we will talk about **Friendship and Teamwork**. We'll start the week making some Stone Soup, a cooperative cooking project. We'll create cooperative classroom projects, make mailboxes for our Valentine's deliveries, solve some friendship problems with the help of some puppets and brainstorm ways to fill each other's buckets. On Wednesday Feb 14th, we will exchange valentines. ***Please "address" 11 valentines, each with a classmate's name, so the children can "mail" their valentines themselves.*** We will also decorate sugar cookies for our celebration. The Letter of the Week will be V for "Valentines" and we'll review T for "teamwork".

The week of February 19 we'll be go, go, going with the Letter G and **Making Things Go**. The physics of motion will be explored as we create our own means of transportation. We'll observe the effect of friction on things that move (including ourselves) and find ways to increase and decrease friction on vehicles. We'll compare different modes of transportation and write a class book about a runaway ball. We'll explore different forces including push, pull, wind, water and

magnetics. Sequencing, counting, patterns and shapes are all great math concepts that go along with transportation.

The last week of February we will talk **Construction and Tools**. Our class of engineers will get some hands on experience with different kinds of tools. The Three Little Pigs will inspire us to recreate those piggy structures and see if we can keep the Wolf out! We'll talk about the kinds of machines that help build, dig and demolish. We'll even work with "concrete" to create a novel piece of art! Our Letter of the Week will be E.

"Going on the Buzzer," our small group rotational activity, will start mid-February on Tuesday mornings. Please arrive right on time (or even 5 minutes early) so we can run through a quick and abbreviated Morning Meeting and then right into our rotations. The children will be working on fine motor skills and creativity during independent play time, social skills, turning taking, and pre-reading and math skills during game time with Miss Emmy and problem solving skills and mindfulness with me.

Important date in March: **VIP Day** is March 3rd from 10am to 12pm. This is a great opportunity for your child to show off their school and teachers to a Very Important Person, usually a family member who doesn't get to see us in action at PNS. We'll have fun projects and rarely seen toys out in the Big Room for your child and his/her visitor to enjoy.

Stay warm!

Ms. Ryan

SAVE THE DATE FOR PNS SUMMER CAMP!

May 29 - June 8
More details soon!

COME ENJOY THE PNS ART SHOW!

The PNS Art Show is held annually in the children's section of the **Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road**. For those of you new to PNS or unfamiliar with the art show, each year our wonderful teachers select one piece of art per student to be displayed at the library. Families are invited to view the artwork at their own leisure whenever they choose to visit the library throughout the entire month of February. What a fabulous chance for your young artist to see his/her masterpiece displayed in a public setting! Come and enjoy!

KEEP PNS IN THE LOOP

Have you moved? Changed your cell phone number or work phone? Please keep in mind that these small changes may affect the school's ability to reach your family in case of emergency. If you or your spouse -- or if anyone listed as an emergency contact has new information -- please let PNS know. Contact Laura Heim, VP Forms, via Bloomz or at laura.eddleman.heim@gmail.com with updates.

VCPC AWARDS!

The Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council will be accepting nominations for VCPC member schools' parents whose commitment over the past year has been superior. Perhaps you can think of someone whose contribution has been substantial and nominate him or her for this award. Nomination forms will be available on the sign-in tables or by messaging Erin Meyer on Bloomz.

PARENT EDUCATION

On Wednesday, February 7th, 7 PM

Please join Ruth Klimpl, Early Childhood Special Education teacher, for a presentation on Fairfax County's Child Find program. Teachers and parents alike may learn valuable information about how children are screened and what services may be available for your child.

ENRICHMENT

The Army Navy Band will be joining us on **Feb 7th** in The Big Room at 11:30.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each family enrolled in a co-oping class must complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. CDO-only families are required to do four. You must also attend one Clean-Up Day per enrolled child.

- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Fulfill your requirement or earn volunteer hours by attending our Clean-Up Day on Saturday, February 17, from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Please look under the Signup tab on Bloomz to volunteer.
- Cover the 4s class for the class brunch on February 28th. Please look under the Signup tab on Bloomz to volunteer.

Contact Stephanie Jensen (Via Bloomz or stephmjensen@gmail.com) if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these opportunities.

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee is planning a few events for the Spring time. One event will include a possible school wide playdate and raffle. The second event will be a restaurant night. Please stay tuned for tentative dates. We are starting to collect items for the raffle. Class reps will be in touch as the date gets closer, about putting together themed baskets for raffle items. We need help to reaching out to local businesses for other donations like gift cards. If you are interested in helping out, please e-mail Carisa Pineda or Sarah Millward and we can provide you with the pertinent information (including our contact info and 501 c 3 number). Thank you again for your support of PNS!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the March Newsletter please submit it by February 20th. If you have any suggestions or things you would like to see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Allison Hagner for stepping in to help with taking care of our fish and their tank!

Thank you to our library team, Ravi and Stephanie Kamath, Zack and Alexis Jenkins and James and Jennifer Maiwurm for always keeping our bookshelves well-stocked with books relevant to each week's theme.

Thank you to Kristie McCauley for all the hard work she put into our Open House. Thank you to Lori Thomas, Jennifer Brooks, James Maiwurm, Jennifer Wiskochil, Jessica Bonds, Melissa Ahern and Stephanie Jensen for their help during Open House as well!



FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Tuition Due	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30pm	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16	17 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
18	19 NO SCHOOL President's Day 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 4s Brunch 9:30-10:30am			